

# WATER QUALITY

## Pre-Visit Activity

### Activity

### Create Your Own Water Cycle

### Setting

Classroom

### Duration

two 30-minute lessons,  
plus 2-3 days observation

### Subject Areas

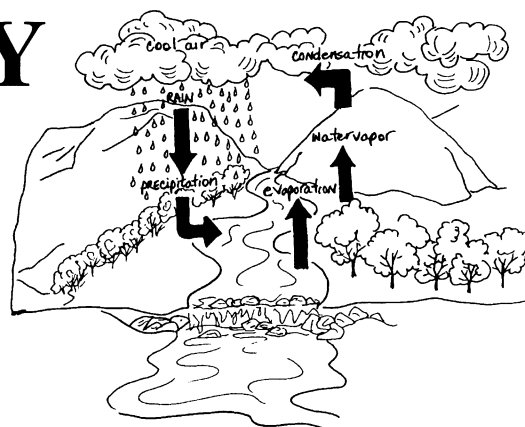
Science, Art

### Skills

Analysis, Inference, Observation, Drawing

### Grade Level

2-3



### Objective:

#### Students will be able to:

1. state why water is important
2. comprehend the water cycle as a never-ending event
3. describe how all of the Earth's water is connected and interrelated

### WV-IGOs:

Science - 2.70, 2.10, 2.45, 3.10,  
3.45, 3.60, 3.70

## VOCABULARY

water cycle  
precipitation  
condensation

evaporation  
transpiration

## MATERIALS

1. water
2. large bowl (preferably see-through)
3. plastic wrap
4. rubber band
5. drawing material
6. crayons or markers

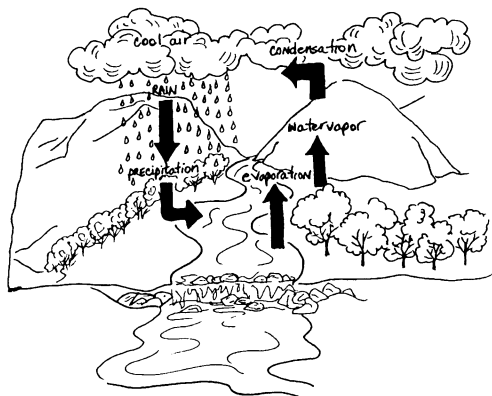
## BACKGROUND

One of the cycles in nature essential to all life on Earth is the water cycle. All waterways (oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams) are an important part of the water cycle. The rain or snow that falls on the land either seeps into the ground or is carried to the sea. All along the way, water evaporates or finds its way through plants back into the atmosphere to form clouds and fall again as precipitation.

## PROCEDURES

1. Have a classroom discussion about the water cycle and how all the Earth's water is connected through this process.
2. Review terms: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and transpiration. Remind students that water evaporates when it is heated by the sun and after the water vapor rises high enough, it cools, condenses, and forms clouds.





## PROCEDURES *Continued*

3. Place about 2 inches of water in a large bowl. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and seal with a rubber band. Set the bowl in the sun. The sun will heat the air and water in the bowl, causing the water to evaporate. The water vapor will rise and collect on the plastic. As the moisture cools (may have to move the bowl out of the direct sunlight for a while), it will condense and fall back into the container as rain.
4. Have students draw and label their own picture of how the water cycle works.

## EVALUATION

1. List five ways you use water every day.
2. List as many examples as you can of why water is important to plants and animals.
3. Describe how the Earth's water is interconnected.

## EXTENSION

1. Find out about the annual rainfall in the area you live.
2. Choose a freshwater body of water near you and trace its path to the sea on a map.

